

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of this amendment, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the pending application.

Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention that the amendments to claim 1 are made in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to incorporate the subject matter of claim 35 into the independent claims, and thus are now in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's statements.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7, 18, 28, and 35 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.


Please amend the pending claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking cover for a component rack having a component tray secured to the component rack by a fastener-containing electronic components, said locking cover comprising:

at least one lock mechanism mounted within said locking cover, wherein said lock mechanism includes a sliding security plate that extends beyond one end of said locking cover when in a locked position ~~to prevent access to at least one of the electronic components;~~ and

a track for slidingly supporting the sliding security plate;
wherein said sliding security plate covers said fastener to prevent access to said fastener and said component tray can be positioned by pulling and pushing said locking cover.

2. (Currently Amended) The locking cover according to claim ~~35~~1, wherein said lock mechanism further comprises a key lock, and a pawl such that when said key lock

 is rotated toward the locked position, said pawl slides said security plate along said track, covering said ~~at least one~~ fastener of said component tray.

3. (Previously Presented) The locking cover according to claim 1, wherein said lock mechanism is a combination lock coupled with said sliding security plate.
4. (Previously Presented) The locking cover according to claim 1, wherein said lock mechanism is a padlock.
5. (Currently Amended) The locking cover according to claim ~~35~~1, wherein said lock mechanism is positioned at one end of said locking cover, proximal to said fastener.
6. (Currently Amended) The locking cover according to claim ~~35~~1, wherein said lock mechanism is positioned distal from said ~~locking~~ fastener.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The locking cover according to claim 1, wherein said locking cover is made of a plastic material.
9. (Original) The locking cover according to claim 1, wherein said sliding security plate is made of a metal material.
10. (Original) The locking cover according to claim 1, wherein said sliding security plate is made of a plastic material.
11. (Currently Amended) A locking system for a component rack ~~containing electronic components~~, comprising:
at least one tray slidably mounted within the component rack;

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at least one fastener removably anchoring said at least one tray to said component rack in a retracted position;

a cover on a portion of said at least one tray, wherein said cover can be utilized to position said at least one tray within said component rack;

at least one lock mechanism mounted within said cover; and

a sliding security plate that is extendable to block access to said at least one fastener ~~and to block access to the electronic components~~ to lock said at least one tray.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein said at least one tray holds several components.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein said cover has a plurality of said lock mechanisms mounted within said cover.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said at least one lock mechanism is a key-based lock.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said at least one lock mechanism is combination-based lock.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said at least one lock mechanism is a padlock-based lock.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said cover is made of a plastic material.

18. (Cancelled)

E/ 19. (Currently Amended) A locking system for a component rack ~~containing electronic components~~ said component rack including, a tray slidably mounted within said component rack ~~containing at least one of the electronic components~~, said tray anchored to said component rack in a closed position by at least one fastener, such that access to said tray ~~and the at least one electronic component on the tray~~ requires access to and removal of said at least one fastener, said locking system comprising:

a cover mounted to said tray, such that said cover can be utilized to position said tray within said component rack;

a locking mechanism which prevents access through said access port to said at least one fastener while in a locked position, and allows access through said access port to said fastener while in an unlocked position.

20. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one fastener is a threaded fastener.

21. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said locking mechanism is comprised of a key lock, a pawl, a track, and a sliding security plate, such that when said key lock is rotated toward said locked position, said pawl slides said security plate along said track, covering said at least one fastener of said tray.

22. (Original) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said locking mechanism is a combination lock.

23. (Original) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said locking mechanism is a padlock.

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24. (Original) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said locking mechanism is positioned at one end of said cover, proximal to said at least one fastener.
25. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said locking mechanism is positioned distal from said at least one fastener, and said locking mechanism includes a sliding security plate that extends to prevent access to said at least one fastener.
26. (Original) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said tray is anchored to said component rack by two threaded fasteners proximal to a first end of said cover.
27. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 26, wherein said tray is additionally anchored to said component rack by at least one threaded fastener proximal to a second end of said cover.
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Original) The locking system according to claim 19, wherein said cover is made of a plastic material.
30. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 25, wherein said sliding security plate is made of a metal material.
31. (Previously Presented) The locking system according to claim 25, wherein said sliding security plate is made of a plastic material.
32. (Currently Amended) A method of securing a tray within a component rack containing electronic components, comprising the steps of:

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sliding said tray into a closed position within said component rack;
providing a cover for said tray, such that said cover can be utilized to position said tray within said component rack;
sliding a security plate within said cover until said security plate covers and inhibits access to an access aperture leading to at least one fastener anchoring said tray into said component rack; and
activating a locking mechanism located within said cover of said tray and coupled to said security plate, to lock said security plate in place.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism is a key lock and the steps of sliding said security plate, and activating said locking mechanism, are carried out by,

inserting a key in a key lock;
rotating said key in a first direction causing the rotation of an internal pawl, which in turn slides said security plate along a track until said security plate covers said access aperture to said at least one fastener for anchoring said tray into said component rack; and
removing said key activating said locking mechanism.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the locking mechanism is a combination lock and the steps of sliding said security plate, and activating said locking mechanism, are carried out by,

ensuring a valid combination is entered in said combination lock;
sliding said security plate along a track until said security plate covers said access aperture to said at least one fastener for anchoring said tray into said component rack; and
entering a combination to lock said combination lock.

35. (Cancelled).
